Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006

Message Text

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16
ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 NEA-09 PM-03 CIAE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 L-02 /041 W
---------- 110009
R 261316Z MAR 75
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON
TO AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 9646
DOD WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 04672

DEPARTMENT PLEASE PASS BAGHDAD

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MASS, IZ
SUBJECT: POSSIBLE CONSTRUCTION CONTRACT IN IRAQ FOR US FIRM

REF: LUXEMBOURG 206

1. DAO LONDON WAS CONTACTED BY ARMSTRONG ON FEBRUARY 28 TO LEARN ADDRESS OF MARWAIS INTERNATIONAL. HE WAS REFERRED TO USAFE CIVIL ENGINEERING DETACHMENT OUTSIDE LONDON, WHICH PROVIDED INFORMATION REQUESTED.

2. ARMSTRONG SUBSEQUENTLY CALLED AT EMBASSY, MET WITH SEVERAL EMBOFFS FROM DAO AND POLITICAL SECTION, AND WAS BRIEFED ON U.S. MILITARY SUPPLY POLICY FOR MIDDLE EAST, WITH PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO IRAQ.

3. ARMSTRONG REPRESENTED HIMSELF AS U.S. CITIZEN NOW RESIDENT IN UK AND A FORMER U.S. ARMY OFFICER WHO ACTS AS CONSULTANT TO AUTOMOTIVE INDUSTRY AND, PRESUMABLY, BROKER IN SETTING UP AUTOMOTIVE RELATED PRODUCTION LINES. WHILE WE HAVE NO DIRECT CORROBORATION OF THESE DATA, ONE OF OUR CONTACTS WHOSE INTEGRITY IS UNQUESTIONED HAS CONFIRMED ARMSTRONG'S BONA FIDES.
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4. IN SHORT, EMBOFFS HAVE HAD CONTACT WITH ARMSTRONG ONLY TO PUT HIM ON TO MARWAIS AND TO BRIEF HIM ON U.S. MILITARY SUPPLY POLICY TOWARD IRAQ. WE HAVE NO REASON TO DOUBT HIS BONA FIDES BUT ARE IN NO POSITION TO COMMENT ON ANY PROJECT MARWAIS MAY BE CONSIDERING FOR IRAQ. ONLY WASHINGTON CAN JUDGE WHAT TECHNOLOGY/EQUIPMENT IS INVOLVED AND THE EXTENT OF USG CONTROL OVER ITS EXPORT.

SPIERS

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED BAGHDAD.

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